

**To:** Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]; Keener, Bill[Keener.Bill@epa.gov]; Harris-Bishop, Rusty[Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov]; Allen, HarryL[Allen.HarryL@epa.gov]  
**From:** Higuchi, Dean  
**Sent:** Sun 8/9/2015 6:15:13 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Gold King Mine Spill - EPA Talking Points

Yesterday, I did send David our deployment list that we had with Harry's update that was sent yesterday. Is this a new request or from yesterday?

Do we have an update for today on what assets R9 is deploying?

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**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 9, 2015 8:03 AM  
**To:** Keener, Bill; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Higuchi, Dean  
**Subject:** Fwd: Gold King Mine Spill - EPA Talking Points

Can you guys help with this? Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Gray, David" <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** August 8, 2015 at 7:50:03 AM PDT  
**To:** "Purchia, Liz" <[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Purchia.Liz@epa.gov)>, "Smith, Paula" <[Smith.Paula@epa.gov](mailto:Smith.Paula@epa.gov)>, "Zito, Kelly" <[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV](mailto:ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV)>  
**Subject:** RE: Gold King Mine Spill - EPA Talking Points

Kelly and Paula,

Can you get me some staffing numbers for field operations asap? Sorry for the short notice. We have a public meeting at 11 am in Farmington. I understand we have some folks working with Navajo on water sampling. Also, the folks in Colorado on both the

response side and construction side.

Appreciate the help.

David

**From:** Purchia, Liz  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 08, 2015 8:53 AM  
**To:** Gray, David; Smith, Paula; Zito, Kelly  
**Subject:** Re: Gold King Mine Spill - EPA Talking Points

This is looking a lot better. Thanks David.

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**From:** Gray, David  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 8, 2015 9:13 AM  
**To:** Purchia, Liz; Smith, Paula; Zito, Kelly  
**Subject:** Gold King Mine Spill - EPA Talking Points

draft – aug 8

## KEY MESSAGES

On Aug. 5 while investigating Gold King Mine in Colorado, EPA and State Division of Reclamation

Mining and Safety triggered a large release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek.

EPA takes responsibility for this unfortunate accident.

EPA is working closely with first responders and local and state officials to ensure the safety of citizens to water contaminated by the spill.

The spill path flows through 3 of EPA's regions (Region 8 (Colorado/Utah & Southern Ute Tribe); Region 6 (New Mexico), and Region 9 (Navajo Nation).

EPA has activated its Emergency Operations System to ensure coordination among its regions, laboratories and national program offices in Washington DC.

EPA is closely coordinating with the officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Southern Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation.

EPA is taking the lead on efforts to contain the leak and flow from the mine is now controlled.

EPA has also deployed federal On-Scene Coordinators and other technicians in Colorado, New Mexico and Navajo Nation to assist with preparations and first response activities in these jurisdictions.

EPA currently has 4 federal On-Scene Coordinators in the field to direct response activities and assist with preparedness. [checking totals with R8 and R9]

An additional 20 technicians and scientist are providing technical assistance including laboratory services. [checking totals with R8 and R9]

EPA ASPECT aircraft is conducting overflights to track the spill.

EPA is sharing information as quickly as possible with the community as experts work to analyze any effects the spill may have on drinking water and public health.

Public drinking supply systems have been notified and have plans in place when water intakes are threatened.

Drinking water systems can store water before shutting down intakes or have alternative water sources not affected by the spill.

EPA is scheduling regular updates on the response for the public, elected officials and the media.

EPA has established a Gold King Mine response information website accessible through any of our regional (Region 6, 8, and 9) webpages.

[www.epa.gov/region6](http://www.epa.gov/region6)